

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for evaluating a boot source in a computer system having a processor comprising:

determining the boot source used by the processor each time the computer system boots, the boot source determining ~~step furthering including determining a source of a number of instructions initially executed as the boot source~~ further including writing an identity of the boot source; and

allowing the boot source to be specified once as a known boot source.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the known boot source allowing ~~ensuring~~ step further includes:

specifying that the known boot source to be a FLASH boot source.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the specifying step further includes:

writing ~~an~~ the identity of the FLASH boot source in a write-once register which identifies the boot source for future boots.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the determining step further includes:

writing ~~an~~the identity of the boot source in a register each time the computer system boots.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
checking the boot source determined ~~in step (a)~~ to ensure that the boot source is the known boot source.

6. (Currently Amended) A system for evaluating a boot source in a computer system having a processor coupled with a boot source, the system comprising:
a first register for storing an identity of the boot source used by the processor each time the computer system boots, ~~the identity being determined by determining a source of a number of instructions initially executed as the boot source;~~ and
a second register for allowing the boot source to be specified once as a known boot source.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein the computer system includes a bridge coupling the processor with the boot source and wherein the first register and the second register are located in the bridge.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein the bridge is a south bridge.

9. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein the known boot source is written only once to the second register.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the known boot source is a FLASH boot source.

11. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein the identity of the boot source is written to the first register each time the computer system boots.

12. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein the processor is capable of checking the boot source stored in the first register to ensure that the boot source is the known boot source.